

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, performed between at least one facility sites that has equipment and conclude a servicing and maintenance contract regarding the equipment, and a management center that performs servicing and maintenance of the equipment in a corresponding facility site and has a database for storing various information on the equipment, through use of a communication line, comprising the steps of:

monitoring the equipment with an information retrieval unit installed in the facility site ~~to collect~~ for collecting operating state information regarding the equipment;

reading requested information for the equipment when a request to provide each of the various information for the equipment is transmitted from the information retrieval unit installed in the

facility site to a control unit installed in the management center through the communication line; and

transmitting the requested information read from the database to the information retrieval unit through the communication line.

2. (Currently Amended) A system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, established between at least one facility sites that has equipment and that conclude a servicing and maintenance contract regarding the equipment, and a management center that performs servicing and maintenance of the equipment in the corresponding facility site, comprising

a communication line for connecting the facility site and the management center,

the management center having a database for storing various information on the equipment and a control unit for reading requested information from the database in response to a request of the facility site to provide the various information on the equipment, and transmitting the requested information read from the database to the facility site through the communication line,

the facility site having an information retrieval unit that ~~is~~ capable of monitoring monitors the equipment to collect operating

state information regarding the equipment, ~~requesting~~ requests the control unit to provide the various information through the communication line, ~~receiving~~ receives the requested information transmitted from the control unit through the communication line, and ~~confirming~~ confirms contents thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like as defined in Claim 2, wherein

the information retrieval unit is disposed in the equipment, or in the vicinity thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the equipment comprises thermal equipment.

5. (Previously Presented) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the equipment comprises water treatment equipment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the

like, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising outputting the requested information at the facility site.

7. (Previously Presented) The method for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising determining the various information is to be requested for the equipment in response to the collected operating state information.

8. (Previously Presented) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the equipment comprises thermal equipment.

9. (Previously Presented) The system for servicing and maintaining thermal equipment, water treatment equipment and the like, as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the equipment comprises water treatment equipment.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for servicing and maintaining equipment at a facility site, wherein the facility site is linked to a management center to perform service and maintenance to the facility site, comprising the steps of:

monitoring the equipment at the facility site to control an operating state with an information retrieval unit at the facility site;

detecting an abnormality in the operating state of the equipment;

transmitting a request for information from the information retrieval unit to a control unit located at the management center in response to the abnormality;

receiving various information read from a database coupled to the control unit pertaining to the equipment at the information retrieval unit; and

providing the various information for service and maintenance at the facility site.

11. (Previously Presented) The method servicing and maintaining equipment at a facility site, as claimed in claim 10, wherein the detecting includes receiving a signal at the information retrieval unit regarding the abnormality.